

**07/20/2007**

Dear Friend:

Since first coming to Congress, I have taken the approach that it is my job to honestly and responsibly represent the essential needs of the district, the state and the nation. It was with this in mind that I cast my vote against the PATRIOT Act. It was with this in mind that I cast my vote against the War in Iraq. You will recall that at the time those votes were politically unpopular.

Although it would have been politically expedient to vote against the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill this week, because LANL could be potentially negatively impacted in the short term, I cast my vote for the long-term viability and permanence of New Mexico's premier National Laboratories. Included in this legislation are much needed investments to address a looming national energy crisis with funding for research into efficient, renewable energy sources and to fight global warming. As home to our nation's brightest scientists, LANL and Sandia have the capacity to help solve these increasingly threatening energy security issues.

Throughout this process, I have said that we as leaders must face and prepare for the reality that America's nuclear footprint is shrinking and that in the coming years our national priorities will shift to address the looming energy crisis. With that in mind, it is abundantly clear that the mission and purpose of Los Alamos National Laboratory must be diversified to ensure its future permanence and to utilize its full potential for scientific research. I stand resolutely behind LANL, and will continue to fully support the men and women who work there, but they must recognize that the bill before us marks only the first step of the coming reallocation of resources in the nuclear complex. Only in recognizing, accepting, and ultimately embracing this shift, will the lab ensure that they continue to serve in their leading role in combating existing national security threats as well as others that are sure to emerge.

To read my entire floor statement on this ongoing budgetary process, please click:

<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/pdf/71707EWvoteStmt.pdf>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with concerns about any federal issue. You may also visit my website at [www.tomudall.house.gov](http://www.tomudall.house.gov) for more information.

Very Truly Yours,

*Tom Udall*  
Member of Congress